

Message Text

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NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, U.S.

SUBJECT: U.S. PRESS STORIES ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS IN
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

, STORY APPEARED IN N.Y. TIMES TODAY UNDER CHRISTOPHER
1- STORY APPEARED IN N.Y. TIMES TODAY UNDER CHRISTOPHER
WREN BY-LINE CITING "WELL-PLACED CAIRO SOURCES" AS SAYING
EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ARE WAITING FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO
FULFILL "PLEDGE TO STEP IN WITH AN AMERICAN PLAN" TO BREAK
DEADLOCK IN NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, IT
WAS THIS COMMITMENT THAT LED SADAT TO KEEP HIS PEACE INIT-
IATIVE ALIVE AND TO RECEIVE WEIZMAN ON RECENT VISIT. WREN'S
STORY SAYS THAT PLEDGE WAS REPORTEDLY MADE BY PRESIDENT
CARTER TO SADAT DURING TALKS AT CAMP DAVID IN FEBRUARY.
PRESIDENT ALLEGEDLY INDICATED AMERICANS WOULD ADVANCE THEIR
OWN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES "OR SOME BROADER FORMULA" IF

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PARTIES THEMSELVES COULD NOT MAKE HEADWAY. OFFICIALS BE-
LIEVE THAT AMERICAN COMPROMISE WOULD FOLLOW ASWAN FORMULA
LANGUAGE. WREN STORY GOES ON TO SAY THAT CARTER ADMINISTRA-
TION'S DELAY IN FULFILLING PLEDGE STEMS FROM ITS PREOCCUPA-
TION IN GETTING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY THROUGH CONGRESS.

2. OBVIOUS THAT SOME EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL WHO IS IN THE KNOW

HAS BRIEFED WREN AND PERHAPS OTHERS (WASHINGTON OFFICIALS

WERE GETTING QUERIES YESTERDAY FROM LOS ANGELES TIMES BUREAU WHICH HAD OBTAINED SIMILAR STORY). WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO APPROACH GOE IN MANNER YOU DEEM MOST EFFECTIVE, AND WITH A VIEW TO SEEING THAT OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT GET TO THE TOP, TO STRESS THAT THIS TYPE OF DISCLOSURE IS DAMAGING AND MAKES MORE COMPLICATED THE KIND OF U.S. ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DISCUSSED WITH SADAT. WE HOPE GOE WILL ENSURE THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER BRIEFINGS ALONG THESE LINES AND THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY CAN HAVE ASSURANCE THAT THEIR EXCHANGES WITH SADAT ON PEACE PROCESS WILL IN FUTURE BE HELD IN UTMOST CONFIDENCE.

3. WREN ARTICLE ENDS BY SAYING WEIZMAN IS WELCOME IN EGYPT BECAUSE HE IS VIEWED AS "POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR" TO BEGIN. ARTICLE QUOTES UNNAMED EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL AS SAYING "WEIZMAN IS TRYING TO PLAY A CERTAIN ROLE IN ISRAEL AND WE ARE HELPING HIM." YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE ADDITIONAL POINT TO GOE THAT IF EGYPTIANS INDEED FEEL WEIZMAN IS PLAYING USEFUL ROLE, BEST WAY TO END IT WILL BE TO PUT OUT STORIES SUGGESTING THAT HE AND EGYPTIANS ARE IN COLLUSION TO BRING DOWN BEGIN.
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